

the Constitution which should extend their power to the objects. (To Dr. Mease, 1809. C. V., 412.)

BRIBERY.—No person shall be capable of acting in any civil or military office, who shall have given any bribe to obtain such office, or who shall not previously take an oath of fidelity to State. (From a proposed Constitution for Virginia, 1776.

II, 29.)

BRITAIN.—Great Britain is the nation which can do us most harm of any one, or all on earth; and with her on our side; we need not fear the whole world. With her, then, we should most sedulously cherish a cordial friendship; and nothing we tend more to knit our affections than to be fighting once more side by side, in the same cause. Not that I would purchase amity at the price of taking part in her wars. But the war which the present proposition might engage us, should take its consequence, is not her war, but ours. Its object is to induce and establish the American system, of keeping out of land all foreign powers, of never permitting those of Europe intermeddle with the affairs of our nation. It is to maintain our principle, not to depart from it. And if, to facilitate it we can effect a division in the body of the European power, and draw over to our side its most powerful member, surely it should do it. (To James Monroe, 1823. C. VII., 316.)

BUBBLES.—Like a dropsical man calling for water, water, deluded citizens are clamoring for more banks, more banks. The American mind is now in that state of fever which the world has so often seen in the history of other nations, are under the bank bubble, as England was under the South Sea bubble, France under the Mississippi bubble, and as every nation is liable to be, under whatever bubble, design, or delusion may puff up in moments when off their guard. We are taught to believe that legerdemain tricks upon paper can produce as solid wealth as hard labor in the earth. It is very common sense to urge that nothing can produce but not that it is an idle dream to believe in a philosopher's stone which is to turn everything into, gold, and to redeem man from original sin. (To James Monroe, 1823. C. VII., 316.)